

**Indiana Arts Commission
Programs, Grants and Services Committee**

Thursday August 27, 2020
14 Lily Run, Jeffersonville, IN 47130 - teleconference
Ruth Ann Cowling, Chair

Minutes

Members Present via teleconference: Kathy Anderson, Alberta Barker, Ruth Ann Cowling, Greg Hull, Jake Oakman, Dusty Stemer

Members Absent: Allen Platt, Walter Knabe

IAC staff present via teleconference: Jasmine Bejar, Bridget Eckert, Stephanie Haines, Miah Michaelson, Stephanie Pfendler, Deanna Poelsma, Lewis Ricci, Chapin Schnick, Paige Sharp, Anna Tragesser

- I. **Welcome and Introductions.** Committee Chair Ruth Ann Cowling called the meeting to order at 1:32 pm and asked all in attendance to introduce themselves. Per COVID directives the meeting was attended via teleconference and the Committee conducted business with a quorum.
- II. **Consent Agenda.**
 - a. **Approval of the May 28, 2020 minutes.** Ms. Cowling called to approve the May 28, 2020 meeting minutes. Commissioner Jake Oakman motioned to approve. Commissioner Kathy Anderson seconded the motion. By roll call vote, all were in favor. The motion carried.
 - b. **Approval of August 27, 2020 Agenda.** Ms. Cowling called to approve the August 27, 2020 meeting agenda. Commissioner Alberta Barker motioned to approve. Mr. Oakman seconded the motion. By roll call vote all were in favor. The motion carried.
- III. **Capacity Building Program Update.**
 - a. **Indiana Arts Homecoming (IAH) 2020.** Indiana Arts Commission (IAC) Deputy Director Miah Michaelson reported the conference will be provided virtually and free of charge October 15 – 16. She noted the IAH Steering Committee met and finalized 16 sessions which include two keynote advocacy sessions with Americans for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. Content has changed to meet the field where they are at this time with sessions focused on pivoting programs online and deepening the diversity discussion. Content will be buttressed with some online tours of cultural facilities and auxiliary content. Ms. Cowling questioned response from the field and if scholarships are being offered. Ms. Michaelson noted scholarships will not be offered this year, but registration is free. While there is no registration fee, attendees will still be asked to register so the reach of the conference can be tracked. She continued that other organizations doing online conferences have found that registration has increased due to the accessibility of the format with the elimination of travel and time barriers to attend. She added we may continue to have a virtual component of future conferences to address accessibility.
 - b. **Capacity Building FY21.** Ms. Michaelson reported on capacity building efforts of the agency, namely webinars and other online content focused on assisting the field in navigating CARES Act funding such as the Paycheck Protection Program and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance; fundraising; legal issues for reopening, unemployment and housing; and financial management for artists. A list of webinars the agency has provided since March 2020 was provided to the Committee (attached). Ms. Cowling noted she was impressed with the wide scope of information being provided in the online content. IAC Arts Education and Accessibility Manager, Stephanie Haines, discussed the agency's weeklong virtual celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Virtual content was inspired by the work of the IAC's Accessibility in the Arts Advisory Committee (AAAC) and included guest blogs, an hour-long webinar about how our grantees make access work in the arts, and several informational "how-to" videos such as how to hire an ASL interpreter.
 - c. **Research.** Ms. Sharp reported on current research efforts and how those may be recast within COVID-19 parameters.
- IV. **Grants and Services Update.**
 - a. **Arts, Cultural, and Destination Marketing Support Grants.** IAC Executive Director Lewis Ricci reported on distribution of CARES Act funding received directly from the National Endowment for the

Arts and distributed to all operational grantees prior to the end of the fiscal year. He continued on the current round of CARES Act funding which was earmarked by the Office of the Governor for Arts, Cultural and Destination Marketing Support Gants. He noted in partnership with the Indiana Destination Development Corporation and the Office of the Lt. Governor, the agency has been assisting in the application and program development to disperse these funds. He noted eligibility is defined for 501(c)3 organizations that provide cultural services with 501(c)4 organizations with festivals recently added. The definition of arts and culture services extends beyond that of the Agency's to include zoos, arboretums, and historical centers. He further noted organizations such as a community center that dedicates a portion of its budget to arts and culture services are also eligible, as well as, local units of government or municipalities that might have an arts and cultural asset. Destination Marketing Organizations are also included. It was noted grant amounts are based on the size of the organization's budget, if any other type of CARES funding has been received previously and what COVID related needs the organization has. He noted grants could range anywhere from \$4500 to \$50K. He clarified these funds are only for COVID related expenses organizations incur between March 1 and December 30, 2020 and if an organization has received previous CARES funding this new Arts and Cultural funding cannot be utilized for the same expense. It was noted the deadline to apply is September 8th by 4pm. Ms. Cowling questioned how organizations outside of the agency's constituent based going to be connected to this opportunity. IAC Director of Marketing noted the agency will be leaning on the Regional Arts Partners to get the word out to the regions and the Lt. Governor's office constituents will also be receiving communications on this opportunity. Ms. Michaelsen further noted getting the word out through groups like Accelerate Indiana Municipalities and the Indiana Communities Institute will also be a priority. Mr. Ricci added if any Commissioner knows of eligible municipal assets or others in their direct line of communication and regions touching base with them personally about applying would also be beneficial. He noted we want this sector to utilize the entirety of this funding. Ms. Cowling noted the Parks system has been hugely relevant during the pandemic and noted any opportunity to connect these properties or other similar assets would be synergistic. Mr. Ricci further thanked Elaine Beddel director with the IDDC for her partnership in this endeavor and the Governor's Office who could have applied this funding to different sectors but chose to focus on arts and culture due to the recognition of how vital arts and culture are to the state's quality of life.

- b. **Core Programs (Arts Organization Support, Arts Project Support).** Ms. Sharp presented information on the IAC's FY20 Emergency Relief Fund and the distribution of those funds, along with the impact of COVID on grantees. Handout attached. She noted the \$585K was distributed to Arts Organization Support I, II and III grantees from the previous granting cycle as a way to meet NEA requirements for the funding and as the most expeditious route to administer the flat \$3K amount to organizations. It was noted a majority of funds were put toward salaried and contracted personnel. Final grant reports for these organizations show the overall impact of COVID. It was noted all organizations cancelled events or programs as a result of COVID. 97% of organizations reported a revenue loss totaling \$39,859,354.69 and 98% of grantees reported participation loss totaling 1,713,372. She noted information we have gathered echoes national information from Americans for the Arts. She further noted as the pandemic has gone on many organizations are pivoting services to online experiences. Commissioner Greg Hull questioned obtaining information about population and distribution of grants. Ms. Sharp noted she would get that data to Mr. Hull. Mr. Ricci noted CARES relief funding already dispersed was to all operational grantees and not based on population density. Disparity of the distribution of dollars and population is simply because rural areas do not have arts organizations.
- c. **Artist and Community Services.** IAC Artist Services Manager Anna Tragesser reported on Artist Impact Survey and provided a handout (attached) delineating key takeaways. She noted in order to understand individual artists' needs during this time, the Arts Council of Indianapolis, in partnership with the Indiana Arts Commission and more than 25 arts supporting organizations, distributed an online, state-wide survey. The survey was open from May 12-29, 2020 and received 1,400 responses from 72 counties. Findings show that 79% of creatives have been negatively impacted and 53% of creatives reported loss of income with living expenses cited as the most important need. Understanding how to meaningfully support artists through COVID was also discussed. Ms. Tragesser noted paid opportunities and guidance on best practices for re-opening and re-engaging the audience and general public are ways to best support artists during this time. Of further note, creatives see themselves as being part of the solution by connecting communities and being creative problem solvers. Providing further information on available

resources as PUA and artists savings run out and understanding eligibility for unemployment is also part assisting creatives at this time. A group was assembled after this information was synthesized to find solutions. The group identified arts entrepreneurship resources and reopening guidelines as their top priorities. Ms. Tragesser then further discussed the On-Ramp creative entrepreneur accelerator program noting while the data is not completely synthesized, it appears those who have completed this program are navigating expenses and issues around COVID better than the national average. Ms. Sharp noted Mr. Hull has contributed to some of these working groups. Ms. Sharp further added that the ON Ramp program certainly helps build financial and connecting skills and pending mid-year budget numbers and if there is an additional hold back.

- d. **Arts Education and Accessibility.** IAC Arts Education and Accessibility Manager Stephanie Haines reported on the Partnering Arts, Communities and Education (PACE) program research highlights. She noted this program is a three-year long residency of a teaching artist in an elementary school during which the teaching artist integrates arts activities into language arts lessons and this research measures that impact. Not only are they gaining, they are retaining knowledge over the three years. This improvement demonstrates, without a doubt, that the arts create important pathways to learning for students. And learning through the arts produces long-lasting, positive impacts. The data shows, when there is a highly qualified teaching artist embedded in the school's learning, students benefit. Of note, students increased all areas of knowledge. Specifically writing skills, art skills, engagement and communication. Ms. Haines noted this is a snapshot of the research that will be finalized after the final two years of the programs ends. Ms. Cowling questioned PACE programming for the coming school year. Ms. Haines noted schools are reconfiguring the programs to a virtual model. She noted we will also learn new lessons for virtual learning we hope to pass along to the field. Ms. Haines continued on the Poetry Out Loud program and noted the program will be virtual this year and after being hosted by the Indiana State Library over the past two years will come back to the IAC for implementation of the program. Ms. Haines further reported on the work of the agency with the Department. of Ed on where the arts can support social emotional learning. Mr. Hull requested access to the full PACE research report as Herron School of Art is immersed in this work and wanted to cross reference information to see if there is anything they can learn.
- e. **Arts Midwest Resiliency Opportunity.** Ms. Sharp reported on the Arts Midwest Resiliency fund opportunity open to rural and BIPOC organizations who have an operating budget of \$50K to \$250K. The \$1.5 million fund is being administered by Arts Midwest which was provided by a private donor. Ms. Sharp noted information about this grant has gone out through our communications and the regional arts partners. She noted commissioners who know of an organization in their regions that fit these criteria, please nominate them or reach out to them directly as they can nominate themselves. She noted the deadline to apply is August 28th.

V. Old Business.

- a. **Veterans.** Mr. Ricci reported he will be attending the Creative Forces art therapy program conference. He noted the program being piloted here in Indianapolis is a telehealth site as opposed to others around the country which are in person sites. Mr. Hull noted it would be helpful to have any information from this conference Mr. Ricci could bring back in understanding challenges around telemedicine and art therapy related to HIPAA and patient privacy, amongst other issues

VI. New Business. None discussed.

- VII. Adjourn.** Ms. Cowling called to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Dusty Stemer motioned to adjourn. Ms. Barker seconded the motion. By roll call vote, the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:36 p.m.